



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Region 3 - Great Lakes/Big Rivers

Leadership in Conserving, Enhancing, and Restoring Aquatic Ecosystems

Green Bay Fishery Resources Office

New Franken, Wisconsin



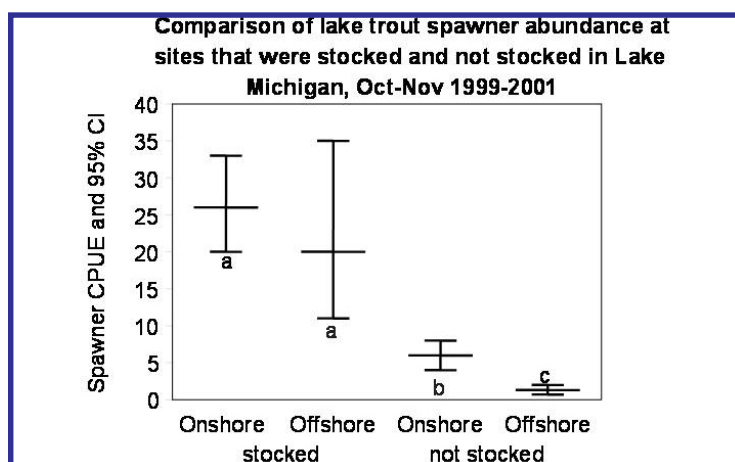
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Series of photos depicting Green Bay Fishery Resources Office (FRO) activities: (Top Row, Lt. to Rt.) Green Bay FRO's Lake Michigan assessment vessel "Lake Char"; Green Bay FRO/Ecological Services office building in New Franken, Wisconsin; Conducting lake sturgeon status assessment in the Menominee River; (Middle Row) Rob Elliott explains lake sturgeon rehabilitation at an outreach event; The Lake Sturgeon Task Group meets to coordinate activities; FRO staff participates in Oneida Nation Kids Fishing Day; (Bottom Row) John Netto developing models to assist managers in setting safe lake whitefish harvest levels; Fall lake trout spawning assessments are used to monitor rehabilitation efforts in Lake Michigan; Dale Hanson ages lake whitefish scales.

Green Bay Fishery Resources Office

The Green Bay Fishery Resources Office (FRO), established in 1992, is responsible for fishery technical and management assistance and science leadership within the Lake Michigan watershed. The Green Bay FRO works with 11 Tribal governments, one National Wildlife Refuge, and four States. The achievement of the fish community objectives for Lake Michigan, and restoration and assessment of native fish and their habitats are the primary focus of the Green Bay FRO with emphasis on lake trout, lake sturgeon, lake whitefish, and yellow perch.

Delivering a lake trout rehabilitation program is a primary goal of the Green Bay FRO. Staff serves as the Fish and Wildlife Service representative on the Lake Michigan Technical Committee and as chair of the Lake Michigan Lake Trout Task Group, coordinates with National Fish Hatcheries to achieve stocking goals, conducts field surveys, and coordinates or assists with the analysis of interagency generated survey data to evaluate the success of rehabilitation strategies. For example, the office led the analysis of the effectiveness of stocking lake trout over nearshore and offshore spawning reefs which confirmed that greater numbers of spawners were established on stocked reefs versus reefs that were not stocked.



These and other lakewide analyzes of assessment data, combined with a description of impediments to rehabilitation, will guide the revision of the rehabilitation plan for lake trout in Lake Michigan.

Lake sturgeon is another focus species for the Green Bay FRO. Staff chairs the Lake Michigan Lake Sturgeon Task Group that is charged to develop a sturgeon rehabilitation plan for Lake Michigan. The office conducts or coordinates field work to describe the status and genetic characteristics of remnant



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Green Bay Fishery Resources Office Staff

Left to Right: Dale Hanson, Rob Elliott, Mark Holey, Chuck Bronte, John Netto, Not pictured - Stewart Cogswell

populations in Green Bay and Lake Michigan, and works with other agencies to coordinate research efforts.

Providing technical assistance to Native American Tribes is an important Federal trust responsibility for the Green Bay FRO. Implementation of the 2000 Consent Decree in the 1836 Treaty waters of lakes Michigan, Superior, and Huron, among five Chippewa/Ottawa tribal governments and the State of Michigan is a major activity for the Green Bay FRO and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Staff serves as members on technical and modeling committees that determines safe harvest limits for lake trout and lake whitefish and provides oversight on Decree implementation. Biologists also provide management assistance to the Wisconsin tribes of Oneida, Stockbridge-Munsee, and Forest County Potawatomi.

Rounding out the activities of the Green Bay FRO includes restoring fish habitat, surveying aquatic invasive species populations, implementing restoration activities through the Lower Green Bay/Fox River Natural Resource Damage Assessment process, serving on the sea lamprey research committee, and serving on the Great Lakes Fishery Trust.

The station supports the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act and native species restoration with partners and publishes results in professional journals and internal reports.

For detailed information about the Green Bay Fishery Resources Office, contact the office at (920) 866-1717 or visit the Regional website at: <http://midwest.fws.gov/Fisheries/fisheryoffices.htm>.